



ISSUE 3 – SEPTEMBER TRIMESTER 2022

Murdoch University Dubai

The Link: Employability News & Updates



Welcome to the third issue of “The Link” – Murdoch Dubai’s Employability Newsletter!

This issue has a focus on ‘Skill Development’ and how it is vital for standing out in the World of Work. We have included practical insights to help you gradually develop your skill set. By consistently accumulating bite-size knowledge and skills specific to your career trajectory, you will soon operate at levels far above those expected from you!

Stay happy, motivated, and passionate in discovering the professional skills that will help you enhance your employability. Cheers!

What’s in this newsletter?

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Skill Development Tips

Industry Identified: Computer Science

This section “Industry Identified” is a new feature of our newsletter where we **identify** one industry per issue and provide skill development tips for students to thrive in that industry. This issue’s industry is Computer Science or Information Technology (IT) as it is a highly technical field and a booming market in the Middle East.

- Please know that **you** are in great demand in the employment market anywhere across the globe if you bring the right skill set to the table. Figure out where you fit-in based on your passion and career interest. For example:

If you enjoy:	Then, focus on ways to:
The Programming side of IT	Polish your coding skills via online courses, app development tools, and participation in hackathons
The Data side of IT	Hone your skills in data scraping, data processing, data engineering, and analysis.
The Information Systems side of IT	Learn about databases, information systems, analysis, and logic design
The “People-interaction” side of IT	Develop skills in human-computer interaction, app user interface (UI) design, customer journeys within an app, and analyzing user touchpoints with specific company’s technological offerings.



Skill Development Tips Continued...

- Create your niche based on your natural talent and career interests. Your career trajectory could be in:
 - **IT Architecture, Systems Analysis, Website/Interface/App. Design,**
 - **Cyber Security and Forensics,**
 - **Data Science, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, or**
 - **Any Technical areas** (such as programming with expertise in multiple languages, debugging, etc.). Stay aware of different technologies and platforms.
- Remain up to date with latest trends and developments in IT so you are aware of the lingo (through blogs, articles, LinkedIn newsfeeds; follow companies like Meta, B7B, Microsoft, Oracle, Apple, etc).
- “Cracking the coding interview” by Gayle Laakmann is a fantastic resource to prepare for an interview. “Doing one-page a day keeps the interview rejections away” is an effective mantra for interview preparation. Similarly, the online course “Grokking the coding interview” is an excellent source for developing your Computer Science skill set.
- Join Google’s Student Developer club - it’s a productive platform to code and network.

How to start your Job Search

One of the questions we are most asked from our students is how to start searching for a job or internship. Based on our experience in the employment market, the following tips will support you in your Job Search process:

- **Leverage reliable Job Portals.** With the boost in online recruitment, employers are using job portals to promote vacancies and search for the best candidates. Several highly credible job portals in the United Arab Emirates offer job seekers easy access to promising jobs. Start with creating your profile on the following job sites: (i) Indeed.com, (ii) Bayt.com, (iii) MonsterGulf.com, and (iv) NaukariGulf.com and then apply for jobs advertised on these portals. Update your profile created on these sites every now and then to indicate to the recruiters that you are actively looking for opportunities.
- **Follow companies & industries of your interest.** In line with your career interests, check out job postings of companies you are interested in. Regularly visit their Career Page and proactively apply for job opportunities. Follow them through social media (LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, InstaStories, etc.), so you engage with their recruitment activities and gain insights about the company or industry.
- **Gain professional experience.** Try to get your foot in the door at big companies through internships (paid/unpaid) and part-time/full-time work. This way, they get to know you and you them.
- **Stay focused on your skill development.** Do not let easy access to vast amounts of information on the Internet overwhelm or distract you. Stay focused and intentional in developing your know-how and skillset in areas that align with your career aspirations and interests.
- **Join Professional Associations and Groups.** Join international and local professional bodies or associations specific to your field of specialization (HR, Finance, IT, Cyber Security, Criminology, Psychology, etc.). This offers two benefits: One, you will have access to both advertised and hidden jobs. Two, you will be exposed to the latest trends and industry offerings, while networking with subject-matter-experts (SMEs) in your field.

Striking an effective study-life balance!

Your university days are a great time to build new friendships and develop your hobbies while maintaining your focus on academic and professional pursuits. Maintaining a balance is vital for becoming the best version of yourself. Incorporate the following tips to achieve an effective study-life balance.

- **Prioritize.**

Find a way to prioritize your professional and personal pursuits. Think about all aspects of your development—academics, extracurricular, community/social work, family time, fun and relaxation. Make a monthly, weekly, and daily plan and stick to it. Research has shown that maintaining a healthy work-life balance is indispensable to happiness and productivity.

- **Network.**

Associate yourself with people who will help you grow, both in the short and long term. In turn, inspire others to help them develop both personally and professionally.

- **Get to know others.**

Everyone brings a different repertoire of skills, interests, and areas of specialization. Take the initiative to meet and greet new people. Get to know them gradually and surround yourself with people who can help you grow your aspirations in your fields of interest.

- **Plan and analyze your day.**

How are you spending your day? How much time are you spending on your phone? Responding to emails? Doing administrative work? Everyone should spend 15 minutes a day updating their calendar and reflecting on how to make the most of the day.



Career Tip of the Day!

Check out job adverts to see what technical and human-centered skills are in demand in your career trajectory. But be aware that oftentimes job adverts have unrealistic demands.

Do apply for the job even if you do NOT meet all the position requirements.

Employability Workshops

Workshop of this trimester:

Stay tuned for exciting workshops that help you hone your employability skills and develop a deeper understanding of the World of Work. **The next workshop for this trimester will be, “Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace”.**

Here is a summary of the workshops for this trimester:

#	Workshop Title	Date
1	Making your resume stand out! Recording link Slides link	October 4
2	Guest Speaker Session – How to develop your Career Success Journey! Recording link Slides link	November 8
3	Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace	November 24

Contact Points & Questions:

If you have any ideas or requests for a specific employability workshop, please contact **Jil Salhani** or **Uzma Shaheen**.



Exciting Job Opportunities @ Murdoch University Career Portal

Internships and part-time work are an excellent way to learn about the employment market. Check out opportunities at Murdoch University’s Career Portal: <https://murdochdubaicareerportal.com/> to apply.

Book an appointment with **Uzma Shaheen** to sharpen your CV, Cover Letter and Interviewing Skills or simply have a chat on your prospective Career Paths. We can offer mock interviews for you to practice your answers to frequently asked questions and build confidence. Market experts suggest preparing for interviews even when you do not have one lined up. This way, you are always ready when the opportunity knocks at your door.

Linking your extracurricular, hobbies and interests to Skills

Have you been in a sports team or a project in your School, College, or University? If so, think of a situation where you uplifted the team morale, demonstrated leadership skills, developed a winning strategy, or planned a team building event. Seek ways to link your extracurricular, hobbies and interests to your Employability and Career skills. For example:

If you enjoy:	Then, you demonstrate
Sports:	Teamwork, leadership, positivity, sportsmanship, grit, fitness
Art and Craft, Music & Theater:	Public speaking, self-presentation, creativity, confidence
Learning languages:	Curiosity, learnability, intellect, cultural sensitivity, communication skills, critical thinking
Project Management:	Planning, leadership, delegation, innovation, and self-management

Your hobbies and interests can be a great addition to your personal skill set and refine your **unique selling point (USP)**! **Link them back to the skills that are needed in your field.**

Have a great September Trimester!

We would love to hear from you!

Feel free to send your comments or ideas to Uzma.Shaheen@murdoch.edu.au